

CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

February 10, 2022 5:00 p.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Mayor Robertson called the regular meeting of the Ely City Council to order at 5:01 P.M.; led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Nathan Robertson
Councilman Kurt Carson
Councilman Jim Alworth (Zoom)
Councilwoman Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper

Members absent:

Councilman Ernie Flangas
Councilman Ed Spear

City Officials and staff present in the building or via video conference:

City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask
City Attorney Leo Cahoon
Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
City Engineer BJ Almberg
City Fire Chief Pat Stork
City Building Official Craig Peterson
City Municipal Judge Mike Coster (Zoom)
City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below) and the following persons attended via video conference: Geri Wopschall, Mark Bassett, Kevin Reed, Veronica, and Mary.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: February 10, 2022

Print name below

Samantha Elliott
Gregory Eivens
Shadrick Robertson
George Chachas

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 9-1 you are considering negotiations for water allocations at the Golf Course, and this should not be considered. Your auditors have always stated the City should charge all entities for the use of water at the same rate that has been established for their particular class of operation. Years ago, the City was not charging itself for water on different parts of the cemetery and the auditor wrote them up. I want to remind you the County Commission gave free golf to family and friends and if they would have collected, they would have had the money to pay their water bill. Golf is a luxury and not a necessity. Did they ever catch up their past water bill? On your agenda item C-5 you are considering requests for auditing services to conduct annual audits for the Nevada Northern Railway. They need to pay for their own services as they do not operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. They spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars and before they are given any consideration they need to come back under the City's oversight and operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns with alleged embezzlement at the Railroad, and his request for a list of those required to sign a document requiring them to install curb and gutter around their new homes or they would not receive a Certificate of Occupancy.

White Pine County Manager Mike Wheable stated I am also here to address agenda item 9-1 on the consideration of reopening negotiations for water allocations. White Pine County Commission Chairman Howe addressed the Municipal Utilities Board. The ultimate goal of this water negotiation is to discourage the extra use of City potable water so it can beneficially be used for the community and have a sustainable plan going forward. The County as a partner with the City, since we are both owners of the Golf Course, need to look at an alternate water source; this is not a new concept. The County has saved \$200,000.00 towards the project of putting in a well and we have County Water Rights that we can utilize. We are going to appropriate more money this year in our budget process to get that project off the ground. We are asking for the committee to allow us to consider other options and get completely off the City's potable water. We don't want to be putting the additional money into that project and paying the additional rates to the City if it is not truly about revenue and about discouraging potable water use.

3. Mayor – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Agenda, including removal of agenda items.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item C-2 under New Business. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY FIRE CHIEF

City Fire Chief Stork stated we did start on the replacement of the doors at the station. The back part of the station is complete and part of the windows that came were put together wrong at the factory so new ones are coming. Next week they are going to start on the front bay doors. We did get all our new extrication equipment in. We did a training on Saturday at the Landfill and had a good turnout for that. Councilman Alworth did show up for a little while and got to see the new tools at work. This was a huge improvement to the Department, and I thank you guys for the approval on that.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated we have been helping Jennifer with the CDBG applications and those will be submitted very shortly. We have been assisting at the Landfill with cost estimating for their upcoming budgets regarding their runoff ditches. 7-P well did go down. The motor was burned up on it, so they replaced it and now the motor is running, but the pump is not turning. They think it is something going on with the coupling. They are going to pull that in the next couple days, check the coupling, and try to get it back up and operating. We are evaluating the efficiency of the wells so when we start to use more water this summer, we are using them in the most efficient way.

Mayor Robertson passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Williams-Harper

5. NNRy FOUNDATION REPORT

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated January was pretty quiet. The Fire and Ice Festival was very successful. We spent most of January working on our antique freight equipment getting it ready for the photo shoots which start tomorrow; both photo shoots and the workshop are sold out. The Film Festival is the kickoff to our 2022 excursions, and we are gearing up for a very busy year.

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Nevada Northern Railway Foundation
A Nevada 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation
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Mailing Address: PO Box 150040, Ely, Nevada 89315
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Monthly Operations Report for January 2022

1. Locomotive Status – No change
 - a. Locomotives in service: #81, #93, #105, #109, #204, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
 - b. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs, she will be out of service until 2023.
 - c. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201, #310 and #45
 - d. Locomotive 801 is being brought back into service. It is a very rare Baldwin VO diesel locomotive that is one of only eight left in existence.
 - e. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309, Kennecott 801 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
 - f. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #802, #80 and the military locomotives.
3. Rolling Stock Status – No change
 - a. Passenger equipment in service: #07, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Coach #5, Baggage Car/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06.
 - b. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
 - c. Cabooses in service: #3, #6 and #22 are operational.
 - d. Cabooses out service: #5
4. Track Status – No change
 - a. Keystone Branch is open
 - b. Adverse Branch is open.
5. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
 - a. In January we carried 155 passengers. In 2021, we carried 155. We carried 31 passengers fewer.
 - b. Year to date, we have carried 155 passengers.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 330,516 passengers.
6. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand, in the last 28 days:
 - a. We reached 4,285,211 people, a 66% decrease.
 - b. Post engagement was 322,029, a 53% increase.
 - c. Our page likes were 324, a decrease of 51%
 - d. We have 115,460-page likes.
 - e. 155,021 people follow our page.

Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenalin Rush in Rural Nevada - 2020
Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014
Best Museum in Rural Nevada – 2020, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008
Best Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

Mayor Pro Tem Williams-Harper passed the gavel back to Mayor Robertson

6. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILMAN ALWORTH

Councilman Alworth stated as Fire Chief Stork reported I did attend the extrication training at the Landfill with the new tools. I was very impressed after all my years in the Department, and it was a good investment. The tools we had were over twenty years old and still work, but the new ones are unbelievable. I believe with more training they could take any vehicle down to the frame in less than twenty minutes.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated the Governor did lift the mask mandate which is effective immediately; there will be more information coming. I am hoping that is indicative of the progress we have been seeing and everyone is getting healthier.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD.

1. Member Rivero – Discussion/For Possible Action – Consideration and possible grant of White Pine County’s request to open negotiations for water allocations at the Golf Course.

Councilman Carson stated the Municipal Utilities Board recommended approval of this item today.

Mayor Robertson stated if I could speak a little bit to County Manager Wheable’s concerns, and some of the conversation I heard this morning as I was listening to the meeting. The real objective of this is to make sure we can maintain adequate fire storage for fire suppression during the summer months. We have had a number of situations during the hottest and driest part of the summer. If we have one of our wells go down and the Golf Course is running full boar to keep their greens and fairways in top shape, we have a hard time keeping enough water for fire storage. I think getting the Golf Course on an irrigation well is the best route. In the meantime, I would encourage and really like to see some repairs and efficiencies put into the system that is currently there so when they do get on their own system, and even while they are still on ours, we find a way to do this more efficiently and with less water. By getting them on their own well is certainly going to help but they are going to have to pay pumping fees and make sure they have the water to do that. As I understand from the research that has been done over the last year there are ten to fifteen thousand gallons a night being lost through leaks. I think we would all do our best to use public resources responsibly and there is no way around that golf courses use a lot of water. If we can get them to use the least amount possible it would be beneficial to all of us.

Councilman Carson stated I agree, and I would like to elaborate on that. A couple years ago things were different. We had 6-P and 7-P going full time and 6-P is no longer running and 7-P has been out of commission for a few weeks. If this was the middle of summer the Golf Course would be upset with us because that would be our first phone call to shut off water because we need to save it for fire storage. It puts everybody in a bad position and the best remedy is to get the Golf Course on their own well.

Mayor Robertson stated I am in support of the negotiating committees having an opportunity to discuss those options.

City Clerk Lee stated the past City negotiating committee consisted of Mayor Robertson, Public Works Supervisor Cracraft, and Treasurer Trask, so we could reconfigure that committee.

Councilman Carson moved to grant White Pine County’s request to open negotiations for water allocations at the Golf Course. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approve Resolution 2022-2 changing the fee commercial entities are charged to dispose of tires to \$280.00 per ton.

Councilman Carson stated the Municipal Utility Board did recommend approval of this item. We did change the price last year but with inflation of trucking costs going up we are charging \$240.00 at the gate right now and our shipping is \$260.00 a ton to

get it back to Utah. We went with an increase to \$280.00 a ton so we hopefully won't have to come before the Council for a year or two.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve Resolution 2022-2 changing the fee commercial entities are charged to dispose of tires to \$280.0 per ton. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Councilman Spear – Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval for PORTER Group to submit an earmark request on behalf of the City of Ely for system-wide water meter installation.

Councilman Alworth stated this is going to be a very expensive request but needed. As City Clerk Lee has mentioned in the past, we need to do a water conservation plan, and this is one of the biggest things we can do to ensure USDA loans and grants. It has been a long time coming and we are hoping to get going on it. It is a \$27 million request, but hopefully the current administration in Washington, D.C. will see our need as well.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve for the PORTER Group to submit an earmark request on behalf of the City of Ely for system-wide water meter installation. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A MEETING OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF ELY

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF ELY

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Direct City Clerk to form Redevelopment Area Action Committee to review the City of Ely Redevelopment Plan and make recommendations regarding Redevelopment funds.

Mayor Robertson stated Councilman Alworth brought this up and I took time to read through our Redevelopment Plan. I think there are some possibilities and opportunities there and we would like to have plans this year on how to spend some of the money in redevelopment areas.

Councilman Alworth moved to direct City Clerk Lee to form a Redevelopment Area Action Committee to review the City of Ely Redevelopment Plan and make recommendations regarding Redevelopment funds. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF ELY AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

11. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ONLY OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 11A-1 Minutes and 11A-2 Bills.

Councilman Alworth disclosed I am a past member of the City of Ely Volunteer Fire Department and any bills I approve are in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Ely.

Moved by: Councilman Carson Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - January 13, 2022
2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
 - January 26, 2022

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Interlocal Agreement between White Pine County and City of Ely for perpetual operation and maintenance of SNPLMA Funded Projects.

City Clerk Lee stated I will defer to City Attorney Cahoon who has been working with the District Attorney and NNRY's Legal Counsel on the changes since the last meeting.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to thank City Attorney Cahoon for the work on this. I was in his office several times and my push behind this was to make sure the City only maintains City funded SNPLMA Projects.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement between White Pine County and City of Ely for perpetual operation and maintenance of SNPLMA Funded Projects. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Council Members – City Attorney Cahoon – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval for the City of Ely to execute a "Settlement Participation Form" (Exhibit B) and a "Subdivision Settlement Participation Form" (Exhibit K), each containing releases, pursuant to the One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries ("One Nevada Agreement") previously agreed upon (by City of Ely in August 2021) for participation in settlements with 1) the State of Nevada and three (3) of the opioids distributor defendants (AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, Cardinal Health, and McKesson, as listed in Exhibit C to the One Nevada Agreement) and, 2) the State of Nevada and one (1) opioid manufacturer defendant (Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, as listed in Exhibit C to the One Nevada Agreement); and, Execution of an "Amendment No. 1 to One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries" regarding a reduction in attorney's fees to the One Nevada Agreement for purposes of these two (2) settlements only.

Mayor Robertson asked City Attorney Cahoon can you describe for the Council and myself the nature of this. As I understand it, they are doing a settlement of just those listed in this document and then they will be out of the lawsuit.

City Attorney Cahoon stated correct. This in no way involves other parties to a litigation; just the parties listed here are the defendants.

Mayor Robertson asked how does this litigation proceed once we have settled?

City Attorney Cahoon stated regarding these parties as part of the settlement there will be a number of monies that will be distributed to the plaintiffs and the litigation will continue forward.

Councilman Carson moved to approve for the City of Ely to execute a "Settlement Participation Form" (Exhibit B) and a "Subdivision Settlement Participation Form" (Exhibit K), each containing releases, pursuant to the One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries ("One Nevada Agreement") previously agreed upon (by City of Ely in August 2021) for participation in settlements with 1) the State of Nevada and three (3) of the opioids distributor defendants (AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, Cardinal Health, and McKesson, as listed in Exhibit C to the One Nevada Agreement) and, 2) the State of Nevada and one (1) opioid manufacturer defendant (Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, as listed in Exhibit C to the One Nevada Agreement); and, Execution of an "Amendment No. 1 to One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries" regarding a reduction in attorney's fees to the One Nevada Agreement for purposes of these two (2) settlements only. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

1. Councilman Spear – Public Hearing - Discussion Only– Approval to change 8th Street between Clark Street and Aultman Street to two-way traffic.
George Chachas stated there is no need to have two-way traffic in that area and the parking is needed. It has worked for years and as a resident of this community I encourage you to leave it as it is.

Pat Stork speaking as a public citizen and business owner at 753 Aultman Street stated there is a need to have two-way traffic. It doesn't affect George's business, but it does affect my business by having that road one-way when they close Clark Street. I encourage you to change that road to two-way traffic as it is no different than any other side street down Aultman. I know it was discussed in the past when you come onto Aultman to only turn right, and I disagree. You should be able to turn left or right; if you are unable to see because of parked vehicles than turn right. It is a huge effect on my business when Clark Street is closed, and my delivery trucks can't get in. I disagree with Mr. Chachas and encourage you to change that road to two-way traffic exiting on to Aultman with a left or right turn.

Mayor Robertson stated my main concern was parking for the Middle School. I know there are a lot of teachers and staff that park over there and if we eliminated parking that could be an issue as they already have limited parking. The concerns I recall the Sheriff had was the visibility on left turns. I do tend to agree with business owner, Pat Stork, of the need and matching other streets in the area.

Councilman Alworth stated I agree with the Mayor and Business Owner, Pat Stork. At the last meeting I mentioned doing a right turn only to avoid an accident when turning left. I don't know if the curb in front of the old Plaza Hotel could be painted red by the State Highway Department to alleviate any blind spots if you had to make a left-hand turn. I think it is a much-needed change.

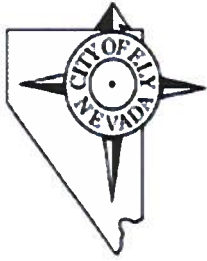
8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Councilman Spear – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to change 8th Street between Clark Street and Aultman Street to two-way traffic.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve changing 8th Street between Clark Street and Aultman Street to two-way traffic with possible consideration from Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion Only – State of the City address.



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
City Hall (775) 289-2430
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February 10, 2022

Honorable Council Members, citizens and staff and distinguished guests. I am honored to deliver to you this State of the City report per NRS 266. These reports are important to the transparency and accountability of a local government to its citizens and neighbors.

One of the top concerns city residents and elected officials have when looking into the state of affairs of their city are the finances. Is the city solvent? Are my tax dollars being used responsibly? The City of Ely's annual budget is not the largest out of the 19 cities in the State. In fact, I suspect we're in the bottom five as far as budget size. This being the case it is that much more critical that the City of Ely guard every penny and scrutinize every expenditure to ensure that our citizens are provided with the services that every resident has the right to expect while planning and looking towards the future.

When I took office nearly three years ago the first annual audit turned up state compliance problems as well as other issues; that same year the City had appointed a new City Clerk and a new City Treasurer, both with many years of experience in working on behalf of the City of Ely and her people. In the past three years the staff, together with close work from the City Council, have dramatically turned the audit results around, resolving all State compliance issues and correcting process errors and material weaknesses. City departments routinely end the fiscal year within or under budget. Department heads take an active role in the budgeting process, lending their on-the-ground experience and departmental expertise to make sure the City's annual budgeting process is realistic and effective. Their participation has been essential to the success of tightening up the City's finances. With the help of staff and leadership the City has been able to maintain a healthy ending fund balance in the general fund even through the uncertainty of COVID. This fiscal year the City is projecting an ending fund balance of nearly \$1,000,000. This, in short, means your City is spending responsibly and making sure it saves for a rainy day and future needs while still taking care of City services.

I would not be here talking about these successes without the hard work of our department officials and City employees. Like most organizations over the past couple years, we've had a fair amount of turnover for various reasons: Changes in the labor market, pandemic stresses, etc... I am proud and appreciative of each of our employees whether they've been with the City for years or only a short time. Your City employees are routinely working late into the night repairing critical infrastructure, plowing snow on a holiday while their family celebrates at home, rushing out of bed to attend an accident or to fight a fire, attending to your complaints and concerns in our offices and numberless other tasks that keep the City running. During the onset of COVID when little was known about what the future might hold, City

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employees took a substantial pay cut in order to make sure the City was financially prepared for the feared but unknown. I'm pleased to report that the pay cut was only temporary and that we've been able to make that up to the employees and more with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. When many workers were sent home to work in safety, the City employees stayed on the job, often putting themselves in harms way to care for the sick and injured of our community and to make sure that critical infrastructure and processes of government kept functioning.

In addition to being responsible with the finances of the City, City leadership has been proactive in assisting where possible during these pandemic years. COVID has been with us for a significant portion of the last three years. It has caused disruptions to our lives, families, and community in ways we could not have imagined. I applaud the Council's proactive measures to assist our community through these trying times. In the past three years the City of Ely has issued thirteen low interest business loans from the City's Redevelopment Fund and Revolving Loan Fund. Thirty-five grants have been issued to businesses that the State had ordered closed as non-essential. In all, nearly \$450,000 was distributed to the Ely business community from various sources.

Additionally, funds that were distributed by the Federal Government have been employed assisting local non-profits such as our local Ministerial Association food bank which also helps to put on the community holiday dinners, the CACHE program to feed local children, the Boys and Girls Club, Magic Carpet Preschool, and others.

The City has been able to update many of the tools our Fire Department and EMS staff use as well as to make sure they are stocked with needed supplies. Additional funds have been made available to our essential Volunteer Fire Department to be used as they see fit for equipment, training, and member support. The City Fire Department could not function without the selfless service to our community by the members of the Ely Volunteer Fire Department.

Federal funds have also been used to update the City's website and online services, as well as for the use of Zoom for City Council and other meetings. In the near future these funds will also be used to update the City's communications and online connectivity infrastructure, bringing the City's tools and processes on par with current technologies.

In the coming months and years, we plan to employ these federal dollars on tourism endeavors as well as water/sewer improvements, bringing better broadband to our area and other worthy community initiatives.

Realizing that our annual budget would be insufficient for all our City's needed improvement, the City of Ely continues to work with our lobbying firm and the Nevada League of Cities, as well as our State and Federal representatives to secure outside funding for projects such as park improvements, infrastructure updates and repairs, Broadband improvements, housing availability, the completion of the State's highway and storm drain project, and many other projects and programs to invest in the facilities and economy of our area.

I firmly believe that for the City to be successful we need to cultivate good working relationships with other entities in our community as well as with the State and Federal government. In the past three years I am pleased to report on the close and cooperative relationship that the City of Ely has been able to maintain with White Pine County. The City and County have, and continue to, cooperate closely on a

number of shared departments and endeavors. The City of Ely has been able to provide Fire and Emergency Medical Services to areas of the County in support of the County's own volunteer Fire/EMS organizations. The City of Ely has had a successful arrangement for many years for police protection with the White Pine County Sheriff's Office. The City of Ely has been able to provide the County with building inspection services and Animal Control services. For a number of years the City and County Road Departments have been able to pool resources, together with help from the Regional Transportation Commission, to jointly complete larger projects in the City of Ely and in White Pine County. The City and County have been able to successfully work together these past three years on tax agreements, a joint election agreement, the joint Regional Planning Commission, utility agreements, grant submissions and many other items large and small; their willingness to sit down with the City of Ely and adjust and tweak these arrangements as needed has made these shared services successful and have benefited taxpayers across the City and County as a whole with better services as well as cost savings.

As outlined in a statement made a few months ago, I am pleased that the City of Ely was able to donate property that the new White Pine County Justice Center now sits on, thereby enabling them to secure needed funding. Consolidating the location for all court services in our area, municipal, justice, juvenile and district, I believe will be a great convenience for the people of Ely and White Pine County for years to come. I have been up to the new facilities for our municipal court and am very impressed with the new location. I have been even more impressed at the job our municipal court and staff have been doing. Conducting court proceedings during this pandemic has truly been no easy task. Working with our City Attorney, the municipal court has been able to clear case backlogs and resolve the matters brought before it in a respectful and efficient manner. We are fortunate to have such professional and dedicated public servants working in our municipal court.

To assist our hard working City staff in doing the best work they can with the limited help and resources at their disposal, it is vitally important that we provide them with the best tools possible.

Our building department has been making great strides in employing new plan review software and taking more of the review process digital.

I previously mentioned the updated tools and materials we have been providing to our Fire/EMS department.

Animal Control, our department of one dedicated employee, will finally be getting the appropriate licensing and tracking software to help make the animal licensing process more automatic with the aim of getting better widespread compliance with the animal licensing requirements. The new software should be fully implemented by this spring.

Our engineering department has been collecting infrastructure system data using seasonal help to be able to implement a City-wide GIS system that will assist the City in everything from zoning issues to knowing which water line to replace and when. These tools will assist the City now and in the future in making spending decisions based on the best data and facts, ensuring that your tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively.

A few months ago, a detailed article went out regarding the work being done to improve City streets. The pooling of local resources between the City of Ely, White Pine County and the Regional Transportation Commission has led to the completion of more street maintenance and repair projects

completed in past few years then probably all of the last ten years combined: Needed equipment has been purchased; new surfacing methods have been tested and implemented; and grants have been applied for and put to work such as the work that has been taking place in Murry Canyon. While there are many more streets to repair, and of course mother nature is always assisting us in creating more potholes, rest assured that your road department will be out repairing potholes and performing those repairs as soon as weather allows.

In regard to your water and sewer infrastructure, in just this past year I am pleased to report that the City has been able to effect nearly \$1.2 million in system improvements thanks to the savings of past City administrations and in conjunction with the highway improvement work that was done by NDOT. Some parts of the City of Ely's water system can be traced back one hundred years or more and there is no shortage of improvements and updates that need to be made, but we are making progress.

Government can be slow, and change can be slow. When you put the two together sometimes the pace can be glacial. However, I am confident that the City of Ely is moving forward and in the right direction. We continue to audit and evaluate every process the City has. The City has disposed of idle and empty property for the development of housing, and I hope we can dispose of more. In a move that should have happened long ago, the City of Ely leased the City Corrals to an organization with the expertise and drive to really improve that community asset. I'd like to say to the White Pine Corral Association that the City corrals have never looked better. The City was also able to lease the old armory building to the State for use by the Nevada Highway Patrol, turning a decaying, unused building into a rent paying property.

I would further like to applaud the Council for their efforts in adjusting, fixing, and cleaning up the City Code over the last three years. They've corrected omissions in the fire code, tightened and clarified the process for dealing with nuisance properties, fixed organizational charts, updated policy manuals, and many other items almost too numerous to list. They've also been looking down the road to take care of items such as short term rentals, ideas to help our redevelopment areas, and generally how to provide for the continued success of Nevada's 6th oldest city. As I've read about problems in other communities around the west that are experiencing growth and losing the battle for their identity and the peace and satisfaction of their residents, I believe the old adage still rings true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Change and growth will come, but planning for it will make sure that Ely retains those attributes that its citizens love her for. Deciding ahead of time what we want our City to look like ten, twenty or fifty years from now will ensure that with growth Ely will not lose her identity.

I believe I speak for the Council, as well as myself, that these last three years have been challenging and while we have come a long way in a short time, there is still much to be done. I am excited for what is on the horizon for our City. I am proud and honored to be serving with these Council members, City Officials and City Staff and am proud of their accomplishments over the past three years. I look forward to continuing our work and encourage the input and participation of my fellow City residents in these projects and the processes of government. Strong Cities make strong States, and strong States make a strong America. Thank you for this opportunity to report on the State of the City of Ely and God bless.

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3. Councilman Spear – Councilman Alworth – Discussion Only - Update on PORTER Group efforts on behalf of the City of Ely.

Councilman Alworth moved to table the PORTER Group update. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Consideration of Karl Schoof's offer to purchase APN 001-296-01 from the City of Ely in the amount of \$3,593.00 pursuant to NRS 268.059 AND possible direction to City Staff to prepare resolution that said purchase is in the best interests of the City of Ely.

City Clerk Lee stated this parcel meets two of the conditions that would exempt it from an appraisal: one being adjacent to the prospective purchaser's real property, and also being too small for an economically viable use. Mr. Schoof is here and can answer any questions the Council has.

Mr. Schoof stated I would like to purchase the property for the purpose of regrading it. The water that comes off the hill flows down and is pushing in on my wall. I would like to rebuild that wall into that parcel of land and improve it to look a lot better than it looks right now.

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The City of Ely is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Councilman Alworth asked is this going to be purchased for a garage for personal use or business?

Mr. Schoof stated there will be a shop built for personal use only as my understanding is it is not commercial.

Mayor Robertson asked would this help getting some of the vehicles you have stored in the City right-of-way stored somewhere else?

Mr. Schoof stated yes, they will probably be stored inside of it and I am working on getting rid of a bunch of them.

Mayor Robertson stated I have looked through the backup documentation on this and we have all drove by this property multiple times a day as you come to City Hall. I think it is a fair proposal and I think it is in the best interest of the public at large and the City of Ely.

Councilman Carson moved to accept Karl Schoof's offer to purchase APN 001-296-01 from the City of Ely in the amount of \$3,593.00 pursuant to NRS 268.059 AND direct City Staff to prepare a resolution that said purchase is in the best interests of the City of Ely. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to release a Request for Proposals for professional auditing services to perform Nevada Northern Railway Foundation's calendar year 2021, 2022, and 2023 annual audits.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve the release of a Request for Proposals for professional auditing services to perform Nevada Northern Railway Foundation's calendar year 2021, 2022, and 2023 annual audits. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ely, on behalf of the City Fire Department Bargaining Unit, and the International Union Operating Engineers, Local 3.

City Fire Chief Pat Stork stated we entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Union to underfill what the position is and train the candidate moving forward. It is going to be a temporary solution due to the lack of getting any qualified applicants or any applicants at all. It is a simple language change that City Attorney Cahoon has looked over. We will be doing Union negotiations here in a few weeks and maybe they will want to make this addition permanent. This is a tool to expand our pool of applicants.

City Treasurer Trask stated if this passes, we possibly have three applicants we could interview immediately.

Councilman Carson moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ely, on behalf of the City Fire Department Bargaining Unit, and the International Union Operating Engineers, Local 3. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated your State of the City Address was interesting and painted a rosy picture, but there are things such as discrimination and selective enforcement that have not been addressed. I would like a copy of your address. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding RV permitting; nuisances around town; and City Codes not being enforced.

Jim Alworth stated as a private citizen I am not able to see if Mr. Chachas is wearing a mask or not, but I am glad I am 356 miles away because he is a germ spreading son of a gun. You go back into history Doc Holliday had a terrible cough like that and he ended up dying of

Tuberculosis. We have got to do something about his constant coughing in a City or any public meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Carson moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **5:58 p.m.** Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR


ATTEST

